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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/989,702	11/21/2001	Hayato Kikuchi	108426-00010	9591

4372 7590 09/20/2004

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EXAMINER


BOTTORFF, CHRISTOPHER

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3618

DATE MAILED: 09/20/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Interview Summary	Application No. 09/989,702	Applicant(s) KIKUCHI ET AL. 
	Examiner Christopher Bottorff	Art Unit 3618

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

- (1) Christopher Bottorff, Patent Examiner. (3) ____.
- (2) Melody Young for Marylee Jenkins, Attorney. (4) ____.

Date of Interview: 10 September 2004.

Type: a) ☒ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference
c) ☐ Personal [copy given to: 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☐ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☐ Yes e) ☒ No.
If Yes, brief description: ____.

Claim(s) discussed: 7-10.

Identification of prior art discussed: Kakinami et al..

Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☒ was reached. g) ☐ was not reached. h) ☐ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: See Continuation Sheet.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN ONE MONTH FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.


CHRISTOPHER P. ELLIS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.


Examiner's signature, if required

Continuation of Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: Mr. Bottorff indicated that properly invoking 35 USC 112, sixth paragraph for the claimed input means and vehicle-to-vehicle distance setting means would overcome the art of record. Guidelines for properly invoke 112, sixth paragraph are provided in section 2181 of the MPEP. Also, the structure of the input means is understood to be the specific switch structures disclosed in the specification, and the vehicle-to vehicle distance setting means is understood to be the disclosed controller and sensor arrangement, such as the arrangement depicted in Figure 4. In the event that the "input means" and "vehicle-to vehicle distance setting means" defined in accordance with 112, sixth paragraph are intended to define different structure than the structure described above, Applicants should clearly explain which structures are defined by these limitations.